(b) Reserve accretion during the VIIIth Plan period has not been commensurate with the exploratory inputs.

(c) In Hydrocarbon exploration, there is no direct relationship between input and output. The possible reasons for less reserve accretion in recent years could be:

(i) Large & medium sized prospects in geologically similer areas and at shallower depths have possibly been discovered through the current technologies.

(ii) Future discoveries may possibly be in geologically and logistically difficult areas and at deeper depth which require state-of-the-art technologies besides new approach/ strategy towards exploration of such areas.

(iii) The exploratory efforts were hitherto concentrated mainly in 6 petroliferous Cat-I basin with little efforts in other basins;

(d) Following steps are being taken to accelerate the exploration activities:

(i) ONGC/OIL have drawn a recast programme for IX Five Year Plan.

(ii) Opening up of new areas by DGH and National Oil Companies.

(iii) Hiring of expert consultancy services for integrated Basin Modelling.

(iv) Increased participation by private companies in exploration under New Exploration Licensing Policy.

उत्तर प्रदेश में गैस कनैक्शन के लिये प्रतीक्षा सूची

423. **श्री डी०पी० यादव:** क्या **पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1998 के अंत में देश भर में गैस कनेक्शन लेने के लिये प्रतीक्षा सूची में कुल कितने लोग हैं और उसमें से उत्तर प्रदेश में प्रतीक्षा सूची में दर्ज लोगों की संख्या क्या है; और

(ख) उत्तर प्रदेश की प्रतीक्षा सूची कब तक समाप्त होने की संभावना है और तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार): (क) 31.12.1998 की स्थिति के अनुसार देश में सा०क्षे०उ० तेल कंपनियों के एल पी जी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरों के यहां प्रतीक्षा सूची में दर्ज व्यक्तियों की संख्या लगभग 133 लाख थी, जिसमें उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य के 14.11 लाख व्यक्ति सम्मिलित हैं।

(ख) प्रतीक्षा सूची के प्रति नए कनेक्शनों का जारी किया जाना अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ उत्पाद की उपलब्धता, वर्तमान डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरों के पास उपलब्ध स्लेक, हाल ही में स्थापित की गई डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिपों को बनाए रखने के लिए न्यूनतम आबंटन आदि पर निर्भर करता है। आयात और स्वदेशी उत्पादन के माध्यम से एल पी जी की बढ़ी हुई अनुमानित उपलब्धता से भविष्य में और अधिक कनेक्शन जारी करने की योजना है और वर्ष 2000-2001 तक पूरी प्रतीक्षा सूची को निपटा लेने का अनुमान है।

Delegation of Powers to District Administration in respect of Petroleum Products

424. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have delegated its powers to district Magistrates in respect of revival, reconstitution, resitement, dual operation of dealership/distributorship of petroleum products;

(b) whether the District administration sometimes harass the Oil Corporation officers by misinterpreting the procedures; and

(c) whether Government would issue circular to State Government not to harass the Oil Corporation officers and should contact State Level Coordinators only in case of getting clarification on some points of disputes to give free hand to the PSU's officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Oil companies have reported that they have not received complaints of harassment of their officers by the District Administration.

(c) Oil Companies generally resolve their disputes with the District Administration officials about interpretation of any policy/guidelines at their own level or through State Level Coordinators. Therefore, Government does not propose to issue any circular to State Governments in this regard. State Governments have already been requested to extend all possible cooperation in development of retail distribution network by oil companies.

Non Abolition of Slab System of Commission on HSD.

425. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Questions 1974 and 2757 given in the Rajya Sabha on 16th December and 23rd December, 1998 respectively, and states:

(a) what are the reasons for not abolishing the slab system of commission on HSD to R.P.O. dealers in spite of recommendations of Directors marketing;

(b) how many reports have been submitted by this said committee and what are the details of these reports; and

(c) whether the present dealers commission for a site lone HSD retail outlet having sales of 80 kls per month is sufficient to meet handling loss, maintenance of toilet, air and telephone facilities salary and perquisites to staff, electricity, return of investments, LFR and remuneration to dealers, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Government had constituted a committee of oil PSUs for the purpose of revision in the Dealer's Commission. The report of the Committee was considered and the Government decided to abolish slab system of Commission on MS, LPG and HSD in phases. Accordingly, the slab system of commission on MS and LPG was abolished w.e.f. 6.11.1997. The main recommendations in the report of the Committee are given in the enclosed statement. (*see* below)

(c) Dealer's Commission takes into account the following elements:

(i) Return on investment;

(ii) Operating costs which includes expenses like salary and wages, electricity, insurance, repair and maintenance, telephone, uniforms, conveyance, depreciation, taxes/fees/ audit, rent, printing and stationery, consumables and shrinkage allowance where applicable.

(iii) Cost of working capital and stock loss.

Statement

Main recommendations for MS/HSD Dealers Commission

1. Abolition of existing slab system.

2. The proposed dealer commission rates as follows:

(a) *Commission for dealers at depot Town:*

(Rs./KL)

Product	Existing Commission		Proposed Commission
	Slab-I	Slab-II	
MS-87	389	239	409
MS-93	422	261	446
HSD	201	94	222